

***Aphelochaeta monilaris* (Hartman, 1960)**

Nomenclature	
Phylum	Annelida
Class	Polychaeta
Order	
Family	Cirratulidae
Authority	(Hartman 1960)
Original Description	Hartman, O. 1960 [p. 127 (as <i>Tharyx monilaris</i>)]
Common Synonyms (S) Previous Names (PN)	<i>Tharyx monilaris</i> (S) <i>Tharyx</i> sp G (PN)



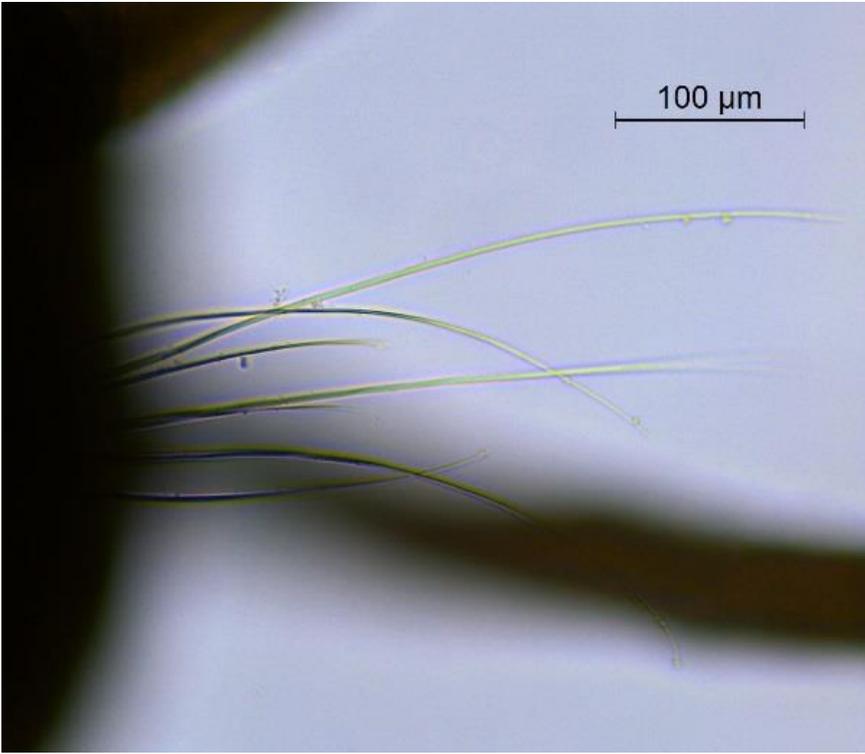
Distribution	
Type Locality	
Geographic Distribution	Widespread in the eastern Pacific; also known from the U.S. Atlantic shelf and slope (Blake, 1996).
Habitat	Subtidal; 2 to 170 m

Description
<p>A small, slender species up to about 18-mm in length.</p> <p>Prostomium acutely triangular, bluntly pointed, eyes lacking. Peristomium cylindrical, about as wide as long, with 2-3 pseudoannulae and a pair of longitudinally grooved palps arising on the posterior margin. Anterior 10-20 setigers inflated, short and somewhat crowded; dorsum and ventrum both rounded.</p> <p>Filiform branchiae first present on the peristomium and continuing along the thorax adjacent to the notopodial lobes. Median setigers longer and submoniliform to beadlike in sexually mature specimens (Blake, 1996).</p> <p>All setae slender, capillary; notosetae slightly longer than neurosetae.</p> <p>Posterior 10-15 segments crowded, inflated, but without a ventral groove. Pygidium a simple triangular lobe.</p>

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Diagnostic Characteristics	
Diagnostic Characteristics	Photo Credits: Marine Sediment Monitoring Team
<p>Methyl green staining: Distinctive ventral transverse stripes on middle thoracic segments. Stain also retained on the tip of the prostomium</p>	 <p>AN873 <i>Aphelochaeta monilaris</i>.jpg</p>
<p>Anterior region inflated with about 10-20 crowded setigers</p>	
<p>Filiform branchiae beginning on the peristomium</p>	

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<p>All setae slender and capillary</p>	 <p>A microscopic image showing several long, thin, capillary setae. The setae are light-colored and have a slightly curved appearance. A scale bar in the upper right corner indicates a length of 100 µm.</p>
<p>Posterior inflated region without a ventral groove</p>	 <p>A microscopic image of a posterior inflated region, likely a larval head or thorax. The region is elongated and tapers towards the posterior. It is covered with numerous fine, white setae. A scale bar in the upper left corner indicates a length of 0.5 mm.</p>

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Related Species and Characteristic Differences

Species Name	Diagnostic Characteristics
<i>Aphelochaeta</i> sp N5	Body larger, with more setigers in the anterior and posterior inflated regions; median setigers cylindrical; inflated posterior region with a ventral groove; ventrum of middle thoracic setigers and tip of the prostomium do not retain methyl green stain

Comments

When stained, distinctive transverse stripes appear on the ventral thorax and the tip of the prostomium will invariably turn green. According to Dr. Stacy Doner at Woods Hole (personal communication), many species of *Aphelochaeta* have a body shape very similar to *A. monilaris* as juveniles and subadults. Therefore it is important to confirm the presence of prostomial staining when identifying this particular species.

Shallow subtidal embayments to continental slope depths.

Literature

Blake, J.A. 1996. Chapter 8, Family Cirratulidae Ryckholdt, 1851. Pages 263-384. IN: Blake, J.A.; B. Hilbig; and P.H. Valentich-Scott (editors). Taxonomic Atlas of the Benthic Fauna of the Santa Maria Basin and Western Santa Barbara Channel. Volume 6 - The Annelida Part 3. Polychaeta: Orbiniidae to Cossuridae. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Santa Barbara, California. ISBN 0-93649-11-5. [p. 333]

Doner, S.A. and J.A. Blake. 2009. Two new species of *Aphelochaeta* (Polychaeta: Cirratulidae) from deep water off northern California. *Zoosymposia* 2: 127-137. [p. 135]

Hartman, O. 1960. A systematic account of some marine invertebrate animals from the deep basins off southern California. *In*: O. Hartman and J.L. Barnard (eds.), The benthic fauna of the deep basins off southern California. Pt. 2. Allan Hancock Pac. Exped. 22(2): 69-215. [p. 127 (as *Tharyx monilaris*)]

Hartman, O. 1969. Atlas of the sedentary polychaetous annelids from California. Allan Hancock Foundation, Univ. S. Calif., Los Angeles, CA. 812 pp. [p. 261 (as *Tharyx monilaris*)]

More Information

More information about Puget Sound benthic invertebrates is available at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/psamp/index.htm>

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